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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01219 241823Z

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO IO 13, ACDA 16, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00,
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R 241345Z MAR 69
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1681
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USNATO 337

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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON ABM PROGRAM

REF: MOSCOW 1157 (NOTAL)

1. IZVESTIYA OF MARCH 22 AND PRAVDA OF MARCH 24 CARRY COMMENTATOR'S COLUMNS ON THE ALLEGED CANADIAN REACTION TO THE SAFEGUARD DECISION. IN EFFECT, THE ARTICLES BY CITING STATEMENTS FROM CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS, APPEAR TO BE USING ARGUMENTS WHICH MOSCOW AT THIS POINT APPARENTLY DOES NOT WISH TO ATTRIBUTE TO ITSELF REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ARTICLES ARE ALSO USEFUL IN BELABORING A SOVIET PROPAGANDA THEME THAT THE CANADIANS, WHOSE INTERESTS ARE FREQUENTLY IGNORED BY US, SHOULD ADOPT A MORE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY ON SUCH ISSUES AS NATO MEMBERSHIP.

2. ACCORDING TO IZVESTIYA, THE OPINION OF THE "MAJORITY" OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS IS THAT THE CREATION OF AN ABM SYSTEM "CANNOT GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF THE USA, WILL LEAD TO FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMS RACE AND WILL CREATE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF CANADA." PRAVDA, IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT SOVIET PRACTICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>7/15/80</i>
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01219 241823Z

OF NOT CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT, QUOTES THE TORONTO DAILY STAR, WHICH TERMS THE DECISION AS "ONE MORE VICTORY FOR THE PENTAGON AND ITS ALLIES IN THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX."

SWANK

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